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GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

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THESE KOBE HOUSEWIVES HAVE NEATLY SOLVED THE CHILD DAY CARE PROBLEM

Though heavily laden even before they reached the market, these Japanese women did their shopping unworried by the possibility of little Ichiro or Kimi playing with matches in an inflammable home. It is a familiar sight in the East to see napping tots slung to mothers' and big sisters' backs. Jap wives, regarded in many sections as little more than servants, perform heavy field chores while so burdened. These women wear the *geta*, a wooden clog used extensively outdoors. Straw hats on the babies are a foreign touch. The street is obviously located in a not-too-modern section of this comparatively Westernized Jap city. Kobe, deep-water port for Osaka, Japan's second city, was already on the decline before American B-29's recently devastated the extensive dock area (Bulletin No. 1).

Lionel Green

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETIN

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Osaka, Kobe Bombings Hit Japan's Vital Inland Sea Area

BY STRIKES at Osaka and Kobe, land- and carrier-based planes have applied the aerial torch to Japan's second-ranking metropolitan area. These twin cities at the eastern end of the Inland Sea (Seto Naikai) lie only 16 miles apart and contain four and one-half million inhabitants.

Osaka is a community so tightly packed with munitions plants, steel mills, shipyards, and small factories that a B-29 bomb has little chance to miss a vital objective. Kobe offers a long, narrow waterfront target crowded with piers and warehouses, shipyards and heavy industries.

Osaka's Westernized Downtown Surrounded by Tinderbox Slums

Smoke-belching Osaka bows only to Tokyo when cities of the enemy empire are ranked by population. It outranks the capital and all other Nipponese cities as a war industry center.

Climbing to industrial supremacy on the stimulation of the Russo-Japanese War and two world wars, Osaka covers the mud flats of the Yodo River mouth at the head of Osaka Bay (Wan). It crowds a Chicago-size population—three and one-half million people—onto an area no larger than the District of Columbia.

Cotton-spinning industries dominated this seething mass until the 1930's, when heavy industries began a rapid advance. Because of the city's silting, shallow, artificial harbor, much of its shipping moves in and out of Kobe, 16 miles westward on Osaka Bay. But even with its large contribution to Kobe's volume, Osaka before the war ranked with Kobe and not far behind Yokohama, the three being Japan's leading ports.

In the center of Osaka was a Westernized downtown section of modern department stores (illustration, next page), banks, offices, public buildings, street cars, buses, and subways. Here and there were new, daylighted factories.

Everywhere in the 70-square-mile city were canals and bridges; gloomy, antiquated factories with tall chimneys; flimsy homes of workers. The airmen of the dramatic Doolittle raid in April, 1942, were the first Americans to drop their bombs on this crowded city of 4,600 factories, 50,000 manufacturing units of five or more people each, and 1,500 bridges spanning 40 miles of tangled waterways. Its crowded and flimsy industrial slums have been regarded as particularly vulnerable to incendiary bombs.

Kobe Is to Osaka as Yokohama Is to Tokyo

Osaka's advantages were a central position well protected from the open ocean, and plenty of surrounding flat land on which to expand. Its disadvantages were a muddy harbor of limited use to large transports, and its remoteness from coal, iron ore, and other raw materials.

Kobe, one of Japan's newest big cities, was little more than a fishing village in 1868 when it threw open the door to foreign trade. Blessed with deep-water port facilities, Kobe grew in an age of expanding world trade because it could accommodate ocean liners which could not enter Osaka's harbor.

Thus Kobe had the same reason for growth as Yokohama, which developed as deep-water port for Tokyo. Kobe became Yokohama's foremost rival as Japan's leading port, actually outranking Yokohama from the year of the latter's destruction by earthquake, 1923, to 1938. The two ports were virtually tied for

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W. Robert Moore

DAMASCUS, AGELESS CITY OF THE EAST, EXHIBITS A CHARM SOMEWHAT DIMMED BY MODERN INFLUENCES OF THE WEST

The minaret-punctured skyline and a few pointed-dome buildings are the most Oriental-looking features in this view of the business section of Syria's capital. Damascus, said to be the world's oldest continuously inhabited city, here displays a superimposed newness of taxis, streetcars, an electric sign, a bus, a most Westernlike monument, and modern buildings. At the upper left stands the Omaiyid Mosque, city showplace. Between it and the square in the foreground lie the massive Citadel and the many narrow bazaar streets (Bulletin No. 2).

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War Declaration Adds Ancient Syria to Allied Nations

SYRIA'S declaration of war against Germany and Japan reminds the world that this land of Bible lore, farmers, and herders is a veteran of many wars. Its history began when the land was a dependency of ancient Egypt. Over the centuries it was invaded and conquered many times, and entered the period of the First World War as a possession of Turkey.

After the war the Allied Powers gave France a mandate over Syria. The Second World War brought a shift in mandate authority. Vichy French forces withdrew from the state, opening the way for Free French and British officials to take administrative control. In December, 1943, the French agreed to transfer to Syria most of the powers held under the mandate.

Land with a Permanent Thirst

Syria as a place name has meant many things. Biblical Syria was much larger than the present state. The Syrian desert includes parts of Trans-Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. Syria was the name for the Turkish province that was mandated to France, but as Lebanon, Latakia, Jebel ed Druz, and Hatay began to emerge as distinct and semi-independent lands, the term Levant States was applied to the area. Hatay went back to Turkey, Lebanon became an independent republic, and the name Syria now usually applies only to the great inland portion of the Levant States.

Most prominent topographic feature is the mountain wall formed in the west by the Liban (Lebanon) and Anti-Liban ranges. A range of high hills branches off from the Anti-Liban trunk and stretches about 250 miles northeastward to the Euphrates River. This great waterway winds through Syria on its way from Turkey to the Persian Gulf.

North and south of the central mountain spine lie lowlands and dry plains. East of the Euphrates, Syria is a steppe. Watercourses trough the land; few are suitable for irrigation projects. Streams with enough drainage area to assure permanent flow are too deeply bedded to aid irrigation. Rainfall accumulation is difficult; the porous ground carries off the water almost as it falls.

Snow and frost are common in the mountains. Lowlands have broad temperature variations, with scanty rainfall. The climate is best in the west where Mediterranean influences are active. Temperatures are moderate and rainfall heavy compared to interior regions. Hot dry winds blow in early summer from desert areas, blighting exposed vegetation.

Trees Pay in Fruits, Nuts, Bark

Water is the magic needed to produce crops. Desert spaces bloom with flowers after rains. Wheat, barley, corn, cotton, and hemp are grown in sizable quantities. Sesame is cultivated for its oil. Chickpeas, lentils, vetches, and beans flourish. Cucumbers, artichokes, and eggplant are standard garden yields.

A large variety of fruit thrives in irrigated orchards. Olives are at home everywhere. Raisin grapes are grown around Damascus (Damas). Pistachio trees are valued for their nuts. White mulberry trees, a specialty in the north, feed myriads of silkworms. Licorice grows wild in the inland hill country. Indigo, sugar cane, and tobacco are grown commercially.

Desert conditions limit timber resources. Pine trees are abundant, oaks grow well, but the famous stands of cedars of Lebanon are disappearing.

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rank as Japan's fifth largest city in 1940 with a million people each.

Only 275 airline miles separate Kobe and Tokyo, the end cities of Japan's industrial heartland in southeastern Honshu. Kobe's position as westernmost large city in Japan partly accounts for its development by British and American merchants, and its marked Western influence. A decade ago Kobe's foreign colony numbered 8,000 people, and its Occidentalized commercial heart, inland behind the principal dock area, belied the city's Far Eastern location and its general Oriental appearance (illustration, cover).

In its early days Kobe received raw cotton and wool borne by big liners, transferred them by lighter and by rail to the mills of Osaka, and in turn shipped Osaka's textiles to far ports. As its liner traffic grew, the city turned to shipbuilding. It soon became the island empire's shipbuilding center, making large and small ships for the ambitious Jap Navy and merchant marine.

With war years approaching in the early 1930's, Kobe experienced a remarkable expansion in heavy industries. Its Mitsubishi and Kawasaki shipyards stepped up production of fighting ships and began building marine and airplane engines. Steel mills, locomotive and rail equipment plants, machinery, tool, and chemical factories vied with shipyards in the Kobe arsenal.

Note: Kobe and Osaka appear on a large-scale inset of the National Geographic Society's Map of Japan and Adjacent Regions, which was a supplement to the *National Geographic Magazine* for April, 1944. A price list of maps may be obtained from the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C.

See also, "Japan and the Pacific," in April, 1944, issue of the *Magazine;* "Women's Work in Japan," January, 1938*; and "Japan, Child of the World's Old Age," March, 1933*; and the following GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Japan's Rail and Ferry Lifelines," May 18, 1942; and "Kobe Is Center of Japanese Shipyards and Shipping" (Geo-Graphic Brevity), April 13, 1942. (*Issues marked with an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for* $1.00.)

Bulletin No. 1, April 9, 1945.

Alfred T. Palmer

OSAKA'S MODERN DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS RISE FROM A SEA OF ORIENTAL SLUMS

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Scenes of Rhineland Myths Are Today's Battlegrounds

NORTH and south from the first Rhine (Rhein) crossing at Remagen, along the 300-mile stretch from the Netherlands frontier to Karlsruhe where the easternmost tip of France dents Germany's western border, the river's banks and bordering hills are the backgrounds for the myths that have been told and retold for centuries.

Yanks who believe in dragons and pixies will find plenty to keep them bug-eyed at Honnef, in the first east-bank bridgehead. This resort town four miles north of the Remagen bridge lies at the heart of one of the most legend-steeped regions of the legend-steeped River Rhine.

Worldly Nightingales Were Banished

One legend tells of the origin of the Siebengebirge (Seven Hills), at the foot of which Honnef lies. Long ago, the story has it, the Rhine flowed into a mighty lake there. The lake often overflowed, causing great damage to the countryside. The people who lived there sent messengers to a distant tribe of giants, beseeching the giants to come and make a gap in the hills that would let the river flow onward. Seven giants arrived. With their trusty spades they quickly opened a deep gap for the Rhine, and went home. They left behind them seven heaps of rocky ground—the Siebengebirge.

Another tale explains why countless nightingales sing in the forested valley at Honnef, sheltered from cold north winds by the protecting wall of the Siebengebirge. According to this legend, these nightingales originally sang in a forest around an abbey a few miles back from the Rhine. Their gay song brought worldly thoughts to the pious monks. St. Bernard ordered them away so that the holy brothers might be undisturbed in their prayers and their penitent meditations. The nightingales moved to Honnef, where peacetime visitors flocked to hear their singing.

There is also a myth concerning the most famous of the Siebengebirge, the Drachenfels (Dragon's Rock), which rises over a thousand feet at the river's edge north of Honnef. In a cave of the Drachenfels, Siegfried, Germany's Number One legendary hero, slew a fierce dragon. By bathing in its blood he made himself invulnerable except for a small spot between his shoulders where a linden leaf had lodged. Siegfried eventually died of a wound in this spot, just as Achilles died when an arrow pierced the heel by which his mother held him when she dipped him in a "bullet-proof" bath.

Castles Crown All the Seven Hills

The legendary home of Siegfried, Superman whose namesake line failed to hold back the Yanks, was Xanten. This small town was the key point of the German's last-held bridgehead on the west bank of the Rhine opposite Wesel.

Ruins of medieval castles crown each of the Seven Hills. The summits of Drachenfels and Petersberg are approached from Königswinter, a village north of Honnef, by carriage road and donkey trail, and a rack-and-pinion railroad (using a cogwheel mechanism). From these peaks can be seen the distant spires of Cologne Cathedral, the tops of the Eifel Hills, and near-by Bonn, birthplace of Beethoven, nestled among ancient castles and villages.

Cologne (Köln), metropolis of the Rhine, is rife with legends. Concerning the building of the cathedral, there is a tale that the architect, Gerhard of Ryle,

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Syrians raise sheep by the million; goats, camels, oxen, and donkeys by the thousand. Chickens are commonplace; pigs, virtually unknown. Wild animals are numerous in unsettled areas. Rivers teem with fish. Insect pests are bothersome. Locusts devour crops and in turn are eaten by Bedouin tribesmen. Mineral resources are undeveloped, and industries are small scale.

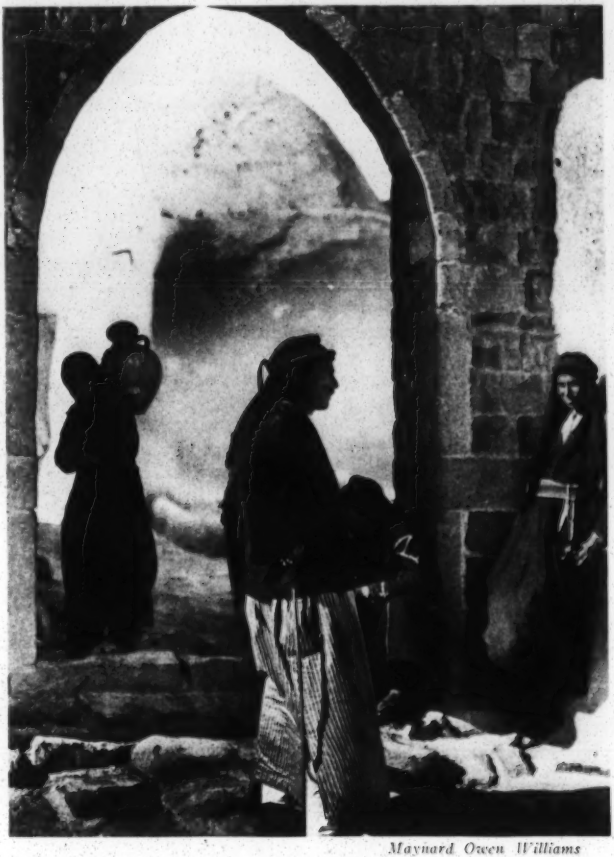
Pared to its present dimensions, Syria about equals North Carolina in area. Prewar population was about 1,696,600; including Latakia and Jebel ed Druz, over 2,000,000. Intermixed are Arabs, Turks, Kurds, Circassians, Armenians, Greeks, Persians, and Jews. A sprinkling of tribal elements, such as the Druses, figure in census totals. Capital and biggest city is Damascus (illustration, inside cover), population 194,000, situated in southwest Syria. About 195 miles northeast lies Aleppo (Alep), second in size (177,300). Between these two cities are situated Homs, population 52,800, and Hama, 39,400, ranking third and fourth.

A railway fringes Syria's boundaries with Lebanon and Latakia, and skirts the northern frontier, running from Damascus by way of Aleppo to Mosul in Iraq.

A bus route penetrates the interior to Tadmor (Palmyra), Queen Zenobia's ancient capital. Another bus road links Aleppo to Baghdad in Iraq, following for the most part the old trade highway along the Euphrates. Best port available to Syria is Beirut (Beyrouth), normally a city of about 135,000 people, on the Lebanon coast.

Note: Syria is shown on the National Geographic Society's Map of Europe and the Near East and on the Map of Bible Lands.

For further information on Syria and its sister countries of the Levant States, see "Bombs over Bible Lands," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for August, 1941; "Change Comes to Bible Lands," December, 1938*; and "Secrets from the Syrian Hills," July, 1933*.



Maynard Owen Williams

SKIRTED MEN GOSSIP WHILE TROUSERED WOMEN WORK

This scene at the gate of a village near Aleppo might be repeated nearly anywhere in the Moslem world. Village gates are social, and sometimes business centers. Men gather there for the exchange of news, views, and pleasantries. When trading is under way the scene is more animated. But always the barefoot women pad by, carrying water jars, the badge of the arid Near East. In the dim background rises a "beehive" house, typical of north Syria. Lack of wood for rafters accounts for the development, centuries ago, of domelike roofs made of sun-dried brick coated with clay. Seen from above, this village would resemble a walled apiary.

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Abacá, Manila Fiber, Reopens Philippine Trade

THE recent arrival in San Francisco of a cargo of Manila fiber from the liberated Philippines signalizes that those islands are again free to begin assuming their accustomed place in world trade.

The cargo ship *Carl Lake,* which has the distinction of sailing with the first cargo after liberation, brought a welcome supply of the islands' third-ranking agricultural export—the "hemp" which is not hemp at all. Called by the Tagalog word *abacá,* the plant belongs to the *Musa textilis* family. It is a cousin of the banana, and a native of the Philippines. Its fiber is the world's best rope-making material.

Fighting Forces Have First Call on Abacá

When MacArthur's liberation forces began their invasion, a Jap ship loaded with the tough and valuable fiber was standing by, ready to sail for the home islands. Transferred to an American ship, the abacá sailed east instead of north to become a welcome aid to the United States Army, Navy, and Maritime Service.

All these branches of the service have had first call on abacá since the war began. The Government designated it a strategic material because no adequate substitute has been found for making the strong, durable cables, hawsers, and towropes required by all the fighting and service forces.

The War Production Board last year emphasized the value—and the shortage—of abacá by a ruling that hangmen could no longer use in their grim work ropes of this fiber which grows naturally only in the Philippines. Instead, they must use ropes of cotton, or of agave fiber which grows in Mexico, the West Indies, and East Africa.

The chief prewar sources of abacá were the Philippine Islands and the Netherlands Indies. About 95 per cent of Uncle Sam's imports of the fiber came from the Philippines. An average of 350,000 bales was imported annually—about one-quarter of the total Philippine abacá export. Japan and Great Britain normally took more than the United States. Global war, causing a rush to build ships, multiplied the need for abacá for hawsers.

Abacá Fibers Longer and Stronger Than Hemp

The fact that for many years ropes were made chiefly of hemp may account for the incorrect application of that name to other fibers which are twisted into ropes. Whereas true hemp has small stalks, each of which produces only a few fibers, abacá has many long leaf stalks which are wrapped together to form the trunk of the "tree." These yield hundreds of fibers, longer and stronger than those of the hemp plant (illustration, next page).

To get the fibers, the abacá plant must be cut down. Then the leaves are stripped off and the pulpy part scraped away with a knife or by machinery. The coarse fibers remaining are washed, dried, and baled. Power machinery was first used to process abacá in Sumatra and the Philippines in 1927.

Abacá is ideal for rope, especially for marine use, as it is water resistant, and does not harden or stiffen when wet. It is shock-absorbing, and does not deteriorate in salt water.

The toughest, strongest fibers, from the outer leaves of the plant, are used in huge cables for mooring ships, and for towropes. A much finer thread comes

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made a bet with the Devil. According to this story, Gerhard bet that he could finish the cathedral before the Devil could build a canal from Trier to Cologne. The Devil won through trickery, and Gerhard threw himself to the ground from a tower of the cathedral and was instantly killed. Work was stopped on the edifice for 600 years and during all that time the architect's ghost haunted the unfinished building. It disappeared when the cathedral was finally completed in the 19th century.

Upriver from Cologne, the Rhine gorge between Bonn and Bingen is noted for its castle-topped crags and terraced vineyards, the rocks of the Lorelei, and the Mouse Tower (illustration, below). At Bingen the river is only 820 feet wide.

Note: The Rhineland is shown on the Society's Map of Germany and Its Approaches, which was a supplement to the July, 1944, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*.

See also, "Cologne, Key City of the Rhineland," in the *Magazine* for June, 1936*; and "What Is the Saar?" February, 1935*; and these GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "Fallen Cologne Was Metropolis of Western Germany," March 26, 1945; and "Germany's Rhineland of Prime Military Value," October 2, 1944.

Bulletin No. 3, April 9, 1945.

TOO LATE TO BE TRUE WAS THE LEGEND OF THE MOUSE TOWER

On a rocky islet in midstream, where the Rhine narrows at Bingen, stands this square tower about which a gruesome legend is told. It is said to have been built for a tollhouse by one Hatto, a 10th century bishop of Mainz. In a year of poor harvests the starving people begged the bishop to sell them grain he was hoarding. Hatto, angry at their persistence, had them herded into a storage barn under pretext of giving them the grain. They were locked in and the barn set afire. Hordes of mice poured out of the burning barn and attacked the bishop, who fled to his inland tollhouse. The mice pursued him there and devoured him. As a matter of cold fact, the Mouse Tower was not built nor the myth invented until 400 years after the bishop's time. The English poet Southey's "God's Judgment on a Wicked Bishop" publicized Bingen's Mouse Tower as did Browning's "Pied Piper of Hamelin" the rat-infested Prussian town of Hameln.

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Geo-Graphic Brevities

MANDALAY, RETAKEN BY ALLIES, SUFFERED SHATTERING BLOWS IN 1942

WHEN troops of India dislodged the Japs from Mandalay, they found only the ruined shell of Burma's second city. Mandalay was described as almost completely in ruins as long as three years ago when it was finally yielded to the Japs on May 2, 1942.

Built from the Irrawaddy marshes less than 90 years ago, Mandalay grew to become a great center of Buddhism, immortalized for the Western world by Kipling's poem. It had dwindled from the 190,000 population of its heyday to 140,000 when it shuddered under a devastating hail of Jap bombs on April 3, 1942.

Lying in the geographical heart of Burma, Mandalay is 350 airline miles north and inland from Jap-held Rangoon, Burma's big port and capital and next major Allied objective on the road to Singapore. Railroad, highway, and Irrawaddy River steamers joined the two cities in trade. Their slight difference in position accounted for vast differences in character.

The two cities lie not far south of the Tropic of Cancer, in the latitude of Havana and Mexico City. Mandalay, shielded from Bay of Bengal storms by high coastal mountains, is hot, dry, and dusty most of the year. It averages only 30 inches of rainfall annually, compared with 100 for Rangoon and 200 for some Burmese coast settlements. Mandalay swarmed with monks and worshippers, while cosmopolitan Rangoon catered to wayfarers of the Seven Seas.

Mandalay grew up around the fortified hilltop home of the last of the Burmese kings. Pagodas and monasteries crowded close around the beautifully carved wooden palace. Pilgrims came to the city from the surrounding hills to conduct a noisy and quarrelsome trade in the bazaars—but only after they had climbed the sacred hill to worship. Hand-woven silk, silver work, wood carvings, and tea were traded for imports from Europe and India.

In 1885 the kingdom came to an end, replaced by British control. Thousands of Buddhists, deploring the close of the religious monarchy, moved elsewhere. The British knew Mandalay Hill as Fort Dufferin, brought improvements to the city in the form of better sanitation, transportation, and education. But through all change Mandalay remained the religious capital of Burma, and the "most Burmese" of Burma's cities.

Note: Mandalay may be located on the Society's Map of Southeast Asia.

See also, "Burma, Where India and China Meet," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1943*; and these GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "War-Racked Burma Outgrows Its Poetic Reputation," February 5, 1945; and "Belated Burma: Pagodas, Parasols, and Peacocks Swept by War," October 25, 1943.

* * * * *

COTTBUS, CITY OF CLOTH WEAVERS, LIES AT EDGE OF GERMAN VENICE

APPROACHING Cottbus, 50 miles southeast of Berlin, the Soviet forces neared the Spree Wald, swampland home of a Slavic people unassimilated by the Prussians who surround them.

The Germans call them Wends. They call themselves Sorbs. Fifteen centuries ago their ancestors settled on the flat wooded shores and islands of the 17-mile-long maze of arms of the Spree River that protected them from the Goths.

Through centuries of change, through the succession of wars, the Wends have lived simply in this rural Venice. Sealed away from the world in the southern

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from the inner leaves. The Filipinos weave this into a stiff, transparent fabric which they use for the enormous sleeves of the women's festival costumes.

Abacá plants are grown from seeds or from the suckers that spring up around the old stalks, which blossom but once. The plants produced from seed take two or three years to mature. Those grown from suckers are not ready for harvest for about four years. The height and length of time required for development depend on climate and soil as well as upon the plant's strength.

Since 1925 abacá has been cultivated in Latin America through arrangement with the United States Government. From an experimental planting of 2,000 acres in Panama, the cultivation of abacá spread to other countries, and accelerated rapidly following Pearl Harbor. The area needed to fill war requirements is estimated at 30,000 acres. Mills for separating the fibers are set up near the plantations.

For most civilian uses, agave must now take the place of abacá. Mexico's agave is the United States' century plant. It has many species and many uses. Sisal comes from the thick, fleshy leaves of one variety. Other types yield Tampico hemp, maguey, ixtle, pita, yaxci, and lechuguilla.

Note: For additional information on fibers, see "Jute, a Cinderella Fiber," in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, November 8, 1943; and "Strategic Materials: No. 4, Manila Rope Ties in With Defense," April 27, 1941.

Bulletin No. 4, April 9, 1945.

Fenno Jacobs from Three Lions

EVEN BEFORE THE WAR JAPAN CLIPPED MINDANAO'S GOLDEN TRESSES

Waiting to be twisted into hanks and baled for export, blonde abacá fiber lies in hairy heaps at Davao, prewar center of the Philippines' Jap-controlled fiber industry. A thousand fairy-tale Rapunzels might have shed their golden hair into this lustrous pile of rope material. U. S. reconquest of the Philippines is recovering this useful fiber for Allied needs.

part of the Prussian Province of Brandenburg, they have not been concerned with the rise and fall of nations around them. The Wends still cling to their own speech, which can best be described as a mixture of Polish and Czechoslovakian. They have retained quaint dress (illustration, below), and superstitions.

Rising in the mountains of the Czechoslovak border, the Spree River winds 70 miles northward to Cottbus. Northwest of the city the river splits into hundreds of channels with thousands of tiny islands. Here and there in this watery network are ancient villages in which each house stands on a tiny islet of its own. Even mechanized Soviet might is not likely to sweep over much of this amphibious Spree Wald realm of the Wends.

In summer, Wend farm boys transport the family cow to and from her island pasture in a flat-bottom boat. Every home has its eel-traps; and eels, giant cucumbers, and cherry pies are the staples of the Spree Wald diet. In winter, livestock is moved by sled, children skate to school, old women skate to church, the doctor and postman make their rounds on steel blades, and the policeman is said to sleep with his skates on.

At Cottbus weekly markets and in Cottbus textile mills, Wend women, in their bright-colored skirts and quaint headdress, are about as far from the Spree Wald as they care to go, although a few have gone to Berlin as nursemaids.

Cottbus, city of 53,000 people, was a transportation center with railroad and superhighway connecting Berlin and Breslau among the many traffic routes branching out in every direction. American visitors knew it as the "Fall River of Prussia" because of its factories employing thousands of spinners of cotton and wool. Some tobacco products, brandies, and machinery bear Cottbus labels.

Note: The Spree Wald appears on the Society's Map of Germany and Its Approaches.

Bulletin No. 5, April 9, 1945.

Acme

A PREWAR PAGEANT ROLLS MERRILY ALONG A SPREE WALD LANE

Frilled and flounced in festival costumes, these maids of the Spree Wald bicycle along as part of a prewar pageant in the village of Vetschau. Their flaring headdresses are nunlike except for embroidered flowers and ruffles of lace. Voluminous skirts make a dark background to show up lace patterns on long white aprons. When doing their customary chores of gathering flax, spinning, or weaving, these Wend girls cover their hair with unadorned headkerchiefs and their gowns with purely utilitarian aprons and scarfs of plain cotton material.